



NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
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USDA TO SURVEY SHEEP AND GOATS PRODUCERS

Phoenix, Arizona – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is calling on nearly 5,000 sheep and goat producers nationwide to provide the latest data on sheep and goat inventory and production. Conducted in July, the Sheep and Goat Inventory Survey provides crucial information for Arizona and the nation.

"During the first two weeks in July, producers in Arizona will be contacted to participate in the survey," said Steven Manheimer, director of the NASS Arizona Field Office.

"Timely and accurate data on sheep and goat inventory and production allow USDA and the industry to be more responsive to the American and international public, increase consumer understanding and awareness, and establish an appreciation for the benefits of U.S. sheep and goats and their products," added Manheimer.

When contacted by NASS Arizona Field Office, producers will be asked to provide information on the number of breeding and market sheep and goats, lambs and kids born during the year. For convenience, selected producers will have the option of responding to the Sheep and Goat Inventory Survey via telephone, mail, Internet, or personal interview with a local NASS representative.

"As is the case with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law," noted Manheimer. NASS safeguards the privacy of all survey responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

Survey results will be published in the *Sheep and Goats* report, scheduled for release on July 24. The report will provide state- and national-level estimates relevant to the sheep and goat industry. This and all NASS reports are available online at: www.nass.usda.gov.

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